



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES
Wednesday, February 21, 2018
City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

PRESENT: Chair Todd Davis, Vice-chair Sherry Woodley, Commissioners Michael Auerbach, Virginia Harris, and Jason Watton

ABSENT: Commissioners Kurt Jones and Fred Klein

STAFF: Director Reed Pryor, Managers Denise Clayton, Terry Erickson, Brett Jackson, Kira Peters, Chris Walsh, and Ruth Johnson, and Recreation Leader III Paul Germinaro

1. Call to Order

Chair Davis Called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Moment of Silence

Commissioners observed a moment of silence.

3. Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

4. Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

5. Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting – January 17, 2018

Vice-Chair Woodley noted that the vote for Vice-Chair was not tallied correctly. Director Pryor said that he will look into the issue.

COMMISSIONER WATTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 17, 2018 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER HARRIS SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

6. Mountain View/Cactus Park Maintenance Updates

Reed Pryor, Parks and Recreation Director, gave an overview of maintenance operations for Mountain View and Cactus Parks and related neighborhood parks.

Mountain View Park maintenance staff is responsible for Mustang Library and Rotary Park. Strengths at Mountain View Park include that it is located next to Cochise Elementary School, has an active community center, heavily used soccer fields, and a softball field. Rotary Park offers non-reservable ramadas. Multiple playgrounds are available as well as a multiuse path. There are opportunities for future pickleball courts at Mountain View and enhanced ramadas and facilities at Rotary Park. Challenges for Mountain View and Rotary parks include aging infrastructure, limited number of reservable ramadas, multiuse path flooding, and aging trees.

Cactus Park maintenance staff is responsible for Northsight and Mescal Parks. Strengths at Cactus include non-reservable spaces, multiple playgrounds, and multiuse and equestrian paths. Mescal Park offers a lighted equestrian arena and there is a possibility for future pickleball courts at Northsight Park. Challenges include sediment buildup during large rain events and aging trees.

Discussion ensued regarding maintenance budgets and parking challenges. Director Pryor explained that staff has the ability to redirect money in the budget between facilities within the park system when necessary.

7. Mountain View Park and Community Center Update

Paul Germinaro, Recreation Leader III, gave an update on Mountain View Park and Community Center programs, services and activities.

Mountain View Community center offers 12,000 square feet of space that includes a non-reservable half-basketball court, two reservable activity rooms, a reservable kitchen, and a reservable stage with lighting and sound equipment included. Strengths of the center include the indoor non-reservable gymnasium, and programmable space for leisure education classes and private citizen use. Challenges include aging basketball and tennis courts and parking challenges on soccer Saturdays. Mr. Germinaro addressed an earlier Commissioner comment about service vehicles being parked in the public parking areas. In addition to the possibility of pickleball courts, there is also an opportunity for an additional sand volleyball court.

Core services include the afterschool program, which currently has 115 participants; a teen program with 28 participants; summer camps for elementary and middle school students; intersession camps; youth sports summer camp; basketball camp; and a youth sports track program.

Commissioners asked questions. Mr. Germinaro said there are no waiting lists. The facility is staffed according to registration numbers. Regarding the possible addition of pickleball courts, Mr. Germinaro said that neighbors are used to the noise from soccer activity on Saturday mornings and tennis and would likely be receptive to pickleball.

8. Junior Citizen Science Academy

Tiffany Sprague, Field Institute Manager from the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, gave an update on the fourth Junior Citizen Science Academy, scheduled for March 2nd and 3rd, 2018 at Lost Dog Wash Trailhead. The program goals include introducing youth to the Sonoran Desert, teaching youth life science concepts, encouraging future science-based careers, and providing information on how citizens can help with resource management and conservation. Friday, March 2nd is open for schools to register students grades three through five. All schools, both public and private, are welcome to apply to attend. The Junior Citizen Science Academy offers free transportation for those students coming from Title I schools. There are 427 students currently registered to attend. Saturday, March 3rd is family day and is open to anyone. Approximately 300 people are currently registered for family day.

Kira Peters, Manager, noted that in light of the fact that Scottsdale Unified School District has declined to participate in the Junior Citizen Science Academy at this time, the after school program is researching the possibility of taking their students in the future.

Chair Davis noted that the Junior Citizen Science Academy addresses the goal of educating children about the desert expressed by Commissioner Klein.

9. Cactus Aquatics Update

Terry Erickson, Manager, provided an update on the Aquatics programs at Cactus Aquatics/Fitness Center.

Cactus Pool strengths include a focus on adult lap swim; sponsored and contracted team practices, a dive platform; leisure education classes; excellent water quality; an aquatics staff held to high standards in fitness and skill levels; drop-in opportunities; and reservable areas at the park. Challenges include high use; limited swimming lane space; aquatics staff sharing pool and park responsibilities with limited rotation time; parking; only one entrance into the facility; lane scheduling; and school schedules affecting staff availability. Opportunities include ongoing partnerships and commercial uses; specialized training; national swim and dive meets; aquatic exercise classes; log rolling and paddle boarding classes. Ms. Erickson noted that the estimated cost of the new aquatics center is approximately \$3 million. She is hopeful that the project will move forward in FY 2021/22.

Discussion ensued regarding the high volume of use at the park and possible changes that could be made to accommodate the amount of traffic, particularly on weekends and during tournaments.

10. New Fee/Formula for Sponsored and Contracted Teams

Terry Erickson, Manager, presented an overview of the proposed revised fees and formulas for sponsored teams and contracted aquatics teams. The recommended formula is as follows:

Non-resident participant fee = non-resident lap swim fee X the number of months the facilities are in use by the team.

The new formula is expected to generate an additional \$14,000 annually; fees would go into an aquatics facilities maintenance and repairs fund.

COMMISSIONER WATTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE NEW NON-RESIDENT FEE FORMULA. COMMISSIONER HARRIS SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

11. Commissioners Report

Commissioner Watton gave a report on his first meeting of the Paths and Trails Subcommittee. The primary topic of conversation was the shared use bike program challenges. The Transportation Department anticipates that problems will work themselves out, but if they do not within a reasonable amount of time, the City will be forced to implement regulations. Director Pryor noted that the bike share vendors have been responsive to working with the City and with individual citizens to address issues. The City plans to assign parking areas near Scottsdale Stadium during the Spring Training season. Questions regarding bike share can be addressed either directly to the companies or to Lisa Johnson or Susan Conklu in the Transportation Department.

Vice-Chair Woodley said she and Commissioner Klein met to discuss creating an event to partner with Community Services to have volunteers available in neighborhood parks and the library to talk to citizens about available City services.

Chair Davis noted that the city has a table at Old Town Farmers Market the first Saturday of each month. Ruth Johnson, Office Manager, said that the farmers market is required to provide a table for City services when requested. She also noted that the City will not have a table the first Saturday in March because staff will be managing the Ultimate Play Date event at Civic Center Library.

Chair Davis complemented the organizers of the Parada del Sol for a job well done.

12. Manager Updates and Director's Report of Current Events

Director Pryor noted that the chemical replacement system project at McDowell Mountain Ranch Aquatics Center is underway. Cactus pool will be closed the week of March 26th through the 30th so the filter media can be changed.

Approximately 20 firms submitted Statements of Qualification for the Indian Bend Wash Master Plan project. SOQ evaluations will be completed by March 22nd and interviews are expected to begin April 9th. It is expected that Council will award a contract on May 1, 2018 which will be followed by public outreach.

Spring Training begins on Friday, February 23, 2018 with the first Giants game at Scottsdale Stadium starting at 1:05 p.m.

The Junior Super Tennis Tournament is scheduled for this coming weekend.

There will be a neighborhood park event at Scottsdale Ranch Park on February 24th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. All Community Services departments will be represented. This evolved from a suggestion by Vice Chair Woodley.

Director Pryor said that staff is working on conceptual drawings for the ideas of building a dog park at Thompson Peak Park and also for a neighborhood park near Copper Ridge.

The Triple Crown Sports Tournament will have two sessions. The first session is scheduled for March 8th through the 11th and the second session March 15th through the 18th. Approximately 230 teams will play across the City, using fields at Chaparral, Cholla, Copper Ridge, Desert Canyon Middle School, Scottsdale Ranch, Thompson Peak, and Vista del Camino.

Paws in the Park held on January 20, 2018, had approximately 400 attendees. Staff is evaluating data to determine whether or not to continue with the annual event.

Eldorado Park will host the Wedge Skate Jam on March 10, 2018.

Commissioners are invited to attend the March 7, 2018 Spring Training Game. Director Pryor requested that Commissioners give him an RSVP.

Discussion ensued regarding Paws in the Park and the low attendance and parking issues. Commissioner Harris was passionate about continuing the event. Ms. Erickson noted that the event began as an effort to bring new users to the Chaparral dog park and originally had sponsor groups. Many other dog-related events have begun since the first Paws in the Park. Chair Davis stressed the importance of consulting citizens and involving Commission members in the discussion before making a final decision. He suggested that the event could be restructured with an education and adoption focus.

Next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled on March 21, 2018 at the Via Linda Senior Center.

13. Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

14. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

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